Proposal entitled:

English Language Competence of Undergraduate Students at Aden University, Yemen: A Study

Submitted to

SWAMI RAMANAD TEERTH MARTHWADA UNIVESITY

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By

Galal Hussein Ahmed Hussein

International Research Scholar, People's College, Nanded

Under the Guidance of

Dr. Tassnim Anjum

Asstt. prof. Dept. of English. P.N.College

1. Introduction

It has become a recognized fact that English has become a link language for communication worldwide whereby people can get access to the up- to – date development in many fields. Beside that English has become a necessary tool I order to obtain a job; get promoted and perform in the world of work. Many countries, therefore have introduced English in their education program as the best foreign language. In the countries like India, English is a second language, but in some countries like Yemen, it is a foreign language.

In the last few years, the importance of English has increased manifold. It has over the years become an important medium of communication both of the international and intra-national levels.

The importance of learning English is even more, because there are many reasons where one knows his subject well, but fails to communicate it properly. The practice of speaking English, therefore, is quite essential. Learning English in a country where it is not a native language opens a number of opportunities for the individuals. In today's corporate world, the need for effective communication has been recognized and accepted more than the technical knowledge.

The language of the corporate world is English. An individual can make strides in the management ladder, if he / she can speak English fluently. If your performance in English is poor, even though with brilliant business ideas, you may still find yourself languishing at the bottom of the management ladder. So there are immense opportunities for English language trainer to train people in communicative English for different purposes like group discussions, interviews, oral presentation, report writing, and letters writing.

It must be emphasized that the study requires the students to be competent in both English and Arabic languages, though, an equal level of competence in both languages may be hard to find among our students at present, but we hope that this study will help the students make some progress towards the goal of real bilingualism.

The value of this study lies in its modest attempt to help the teachers and students to know well the various problems and difficulties that they are facing while they are coming across to learn English language, providing them with the general necessary principles in teaching and learning the techniques and strategies of English language. Furthermore, the attempt is to help them solving some of those problems, supporting the students with a number of better and more forceful procedures regarding to this field of study.

In the University of Aden, apart from being an academic requirement in some faculties, it also emerges as a field of interest to many students, researchers, and specialists in the field of language and linguistics.

2. Statement of the Problem

This study will focus on the difficulties students of English, faculties of education at university of Aden, frequently face in learning English as a foreign language.

It tries to investigate these problems and difficulties, which some of them, lay on the part of the students, some lay on the part of college teachers, some on the curriculum designers. Each category of reason causes mentioned above brings up effect and negative responses on the students involved in the learning English.

The researcher will examine the causes and reasons, results and effects of learning during this course of study.

3. Objectives of the Study

1. To help students to be well aware about the principles and techniques of English language in comparison with Arabic language.
2. To investigate the factors lay behind the weakness of undergraduate students at Aden University regarding to their English competence.
3. To spot light on some problems and difficulties, learners of English language, come across during their study.
4. To provide both students and teachers of English with best solutions to such problems and difficulties.

   The study will be helpful not only for students of the university, but also for researchers and specialists regarding to this genre of study.

4. Hypothesis of the research

It is hypothesized that:-

1. There are some problems and difficulties in English language performance strongly affected on the college students.
2. Some reasons of the weakness in English competence of under- graduate students lay on some of the college teachers of Aden University themselves.

   3. The curriculum materials do not present English language in an ideal way.

   4. Colleges of education do not pay much attention to create a good and suitable learning environment for students such as lacking large language laboratories.

5. Significance of the study

The study is significant for the following reasons:

1. The study is a pioneering attempt to explore the views and perceptions of Yemeni undergraduate students and teachers at the colleges of education about the factors causing students' poor performance in English language.
2. It will help students to have a clear insight and be aware of the reasons behind their weakness in comprehending English texts and try to find ways to overcome such factors especially those pertaining to them, and to develop their English skills.
3. The study will help curriculum designers by providing a good feedback on the effectiveness of the current English language courses used in these colleges and will help them develop good curricula that foster better understanding of English.
4. It aims for helping teachers to identify the causes of the poor level of students and the reasons behind their continuing occurrence; year after year with different groups of learners.

What is worth noting too is that, this study gives a chance for both students and teachers to have their voice heard in regarding to what causes students problems in speaking Comprehension skills by considering their views and opinions?

6. Scope and Limitations

The study is limited to four public colleges of education at Aden University, Yemen. These colleges are Zingubar, Aden, Toor Al- Baha and Sabar.

The respondents of the study will be only students and teachers of English departments of these colleges.The uses of the results is limited to students of public colleges of education and their English teachers in the Republic of Yemen.

7. Research Methodology and Techniques to be used

For the purpose of collecting valid and reliable data about the research topic, the researcher has chosen two applicable instruments:

7.1. Questionnaire:

To collect the study data from the target sample (teachers of the four colleges), the researcher suggests that an instrument in a form of a questionnaire is appropriate to collect the data required to achieve the objectives of the study, and to make the study instrument ready for administration, the researcher will follow some procedures to construct it and verify its validity and reliability.

7.2. Interview:

An interview can be defined as a gathering data tool in which the researcher meets the respondent (s) (a sample of the students in the four colleges) and asks (orally) and records his/her answers. The researcher will use these two instruments to collect data from the population of students and teachers.

8. Scheme of Chapterisation

Generally, the researcher study is mainly organized into five chapters. Chapter one contains an introduction about English language's role and importance in the world context and

Yemen. In addition, the chapter includes statement of the problem, the goals of the study, the significance, and hypotheses of the study, delimitation of the study and research methodology.

Chapter two presents the previous studies, and then a summary of results of these studies to help to highlight how significant the current study is compared to the studies conducted before in terms of its objectives, methodology used and the findings reached to.

The methodology employed in developing the tool used for collecting the primary data from the respondents, selecting the subjects, and collecting the data for the study is discussed in chapter three. Chapter four includes the presentation and analysis of the results of the study.

Chapter five presents results discussion, findings, summary of the study and suggestions and recommendations for improving speaking comprehension proficiency in particular and English language teaching and learning in general, and for further research as well.

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Research Scholar — Researcher Guide

Galal Hussein Ahmed Hussein — Dr. Tasneem Anjum